

covered with pin-feathers of a dark brown color. Their bills were perhaps a quarter of an inch long, wide at the base, and in general shape not unlike the bill of a *Dendroica*, but more depressed.

Taking a station near the tree I watched the nest for two hours (from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.). During this period the female visited it three times. At her first coming she fed the young, and after brooding them for forty-five minutes, buzzed about in the tree (not once leaving it) for about a minute. She then returned to the nest and fed the young again, one of them twice in succession. Immediately afterward she flew off out of sight and was absent sixteen minutes. At the end of this time she came directly to the nest, fed each young bird once, brooded both for six minutes, and then again flew away not reappearing during the remaining twenty minutes of my stay.

Her manner of feeding her offspring was as follows: Alighting on the edge of the nest, her tail pressed firmly against its outer side in the manner of a Woodpecker, her body erect, she would first look nervously around, then thrust at least three quarters of the total length of her bill down between the upraised open mandibles of the young bird. Next she would shake her head violently as if disgorging something; then, with their bills glued tightly together, both birds would remain, for the space of several seconds, perfectly immovable save for a slight, rapid, pulsating or quivering motion of the mother's throat. The actual contact of the bills lasted once four seconds, once six seconds, and twice eleven seconds, the time being taken with a stop watch. The male did not appear at all. The young were perfectly silent. The mother in brooding them kept moving restlessly about as if she were trampling on them.

The close and prolonged contact of bills, the shaking of the mother's head, the subsequent quivering motion of her throat, and, above all, the fact that after sitting on the nest nearly an hour she fed the young a second time without once leaving the tree in the interim, convinced me that the method of feeding was by regurgitation.

The character of the food thus supplied I could not, of course, ascertain without killing and dissecting one of the young, a proceeding which my kind-hearted host would certainly not have sanctioned.

The observations above detailed were made at a distance of about ten yards from a point only a few feet below the level of the nest, and with the aid of a powerful field glass. As the day was clear and the light strong I could see the birds nearly as well as if I held the nest in my hand.—
WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Remarks on certain species of *Dendroica*.—Since my paper on *Dendroica* has been printed, the American Museum of Natural History has received from the Vienna Museum the three species mentioned in a footnote to page 163, viz.: *D. ocellata* Spix., *D. spixi* Less., and *D. elegans* Pelz., and I am therefore able to publish my conclusions in this number of 'The Auk.'

The specimens of *D. ocellata*, so determined by von Pelzel, before me are marked male and female, and differ from each other in the general smaller dimensions and shorter bill of the female. These examples cannot be separated from *D. weddelli* Lafres., with the types of which I have compared them.

If therefore these specimens from von Pelzel have been compared with Spix's type and found identical, then Lafresnaye's species must become a synonym of *D. ocellata*, but if not, then I am still in doubt as to what *D. ocellata* really is. If Spix's type is still in existence, this point could be easily settled by the Continental ornithologists.

A single example of *D. spixi*, and which agrees fairly well with Spix's description and figure, shows that this species is very nearly related to *D. guttatoides* Lafres., but differs in much more slender bill, generally smaller dimensions, and different coloration on the back and under parts, with, however, the same character of spots. It may be described as follows: Top of head and back of neck brownish black, each feather with a central, pale buff, tear-shaped spot, more elongated on the neck. Back, yellow-olivaceous-brown with broad, central, buff stripes bordered with black. Rump and upper tail-coverts dark cinnamon. Throat pale buff, each feather indistinctly margined with pale brown. Entire under parts grayish-olive-brown, each feather with a broad, central, buff streak, margined with black, some of these streaks on upper part of breast being a bright buff. Wings and tail dark cinnamon. Bill long and slender, dark brown, paler at the tip. Feet horn brown. Length, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in.; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; tail, $3\frac{3}{8}$ in.; bill, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Specimen described No. 48,149, collection American Museum of Natural History ex Para (Natterer).

In my key of the species *D. spixi* will have to be removed from the position given it and placed after *D. guttatoides* as "C. Bill long, slender, longer than head. Throat and stripes on breast buff."

D. elegans Pelz. is a very distinct species, and well characterized by the description quoted from the Orn. Bras. Its position in the key is quite correct.—D. G. ELLIOT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

The Purple Grackle at Charleston, South Carolina.—Mr. Wayne has at length taken true *Q. quiscula* near Charleston. The specimen, which he sends me for examination, is a female in high plumage. I cannot see that it differs at all from several of the females in my collection from the Middle States. It was shot by Mr. Wayne, Nov. 30, 1889, at Pinopolis, a few miles from the City proper.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Quiscalus quiscula æneus Killing and Catching Goldfish.—During the past summer, while noting the condition of my goldfish pond I frequently found many bodies of these fishes floating, bearing evidence of some sharp instrument having been used to effect their death: deep incisions, holes, and grooves in their heads and backs, etc. Carefully killing every Kingfisher and all the Herons, Bitterns being wholly absent, I became very much puzzled at the constant loss of life among these pretty fish of which